

**SPECIAL INSPECTIONS:
IMPLEMENTATION IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

2000 Edition

Effective: October 1, 2003

**Based on Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (2000) Edition,
13 VAC 5-62-10 et seq., effective October 1, 2003**



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October 1, 2003

PREFACE TO THE SIFC-2000

The new *Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code* edition, effective October 1, 2003, (**VUSBC(2000)**, or **VUSBC**), incorporates and amends the International Code Council, Inc. (ICC) *2000 International Building Code*, including portions of the *2001* and *2002 Supplements* (**IBC-2000**, or **IBC**).

Special Inspections: Implementation in Fairfax County - 2000 Edition, effective October 1, 2003, (**SIFC-2000**), implements the Fairfax County Special Inspections Program procedures for special inspections that are required by the **VUSBC(2000)** and **IBC-2000**. This SIFC-2000 is intended to be useable in offices and on the job site by containing the pertinent information needed for successful application of the special inspections program, but it is not a replacement for the governing codes, nor is it a library of all referenced standards.

The procedures of the special inspections program have “**SIFC-mm.nn**” section numbers. The VUSBC and IBC building code sections that are included in each chapter have a different font, with “**VUSBC-mm.nn**” and “**IBC-mm.nn**” section numbers, respectively, which should help in reading and applying the program and the building code. Individuals such as the Owner are shown in bold type to emphasize their roles and responsibilities. Examples:

“**SIFC-301.1 Required by VUSBC and IBC.** The VUSBC requires special inspections for ...” (SIFC-2000 language)

“**VUSBC-1704.1 General.** Where application is made for construction as described in this section, the **Owner** or the **RDP** in responsible charge ...” (VUSBC language)

Several additional changes are summarized below.

Chapter 1, The Fairfax County Special Inspections Program. The description of “special inspections and materials testing” has been changed from “...ensure adequacy...” to “...substantiate adequacy...”. The inspection and testing agency shall meet ASTM E 329 requirements. The Special Inspections Engineer of Record is responsible for the inspection and testing agency’s work, whether directly supervising it or not. Both parties are subject to County approval, and the FCCSS role is to confirm their work. The appropriate registered design professionals of record shall review and approve the final report of special inspections before its submission for FCCSS review and approval.

Chapter 2, Definitions and Abbreviations. Revises several definitions and includes definitions from SIFC-2000, IBC and VUSBC. Includes contact information for standards promulgating organizations (addresses, telephone numbers and web sites).

“Completion letter” and “Final report of special inspections”. To clarify the scope and timing of special inspections, these definitions now include the phrases “...special inspections as identified in the statement of special inspections...” and “...materials or phases of construction have been inspected prior to concealment...”.

“Inspection and testing agency”. To be approved, an inspection and testing agency must be accredited and meet the requirements of ASTM E 329.

“Special inspection”. A new sentence, “...In this context, ‘ensure’ means ‘substantiate’...”, clarifies the intent of both the SIFC-2000 and IBC definitions.

Chapter 3, Special Inspections Classifications. Includes VUSBC-1704.1 *General*, IBC-1704.2 *Inspection of fabricators*, and Code of Virginia § 54.1-400 et seq. Requirements for professional design of buildings. Seismic classifications are revised. Cast-in-place concrete includes a sentence on “stable” ground support. New classifications are added for sprayed fire-resistant material, smoke control, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing components, and the Statement of Special Inspections form has the new classifications.

Chapter 5, Special Inspections and Testing Services. New language specifies the approval process for changes in construction team. Design revisions with associated document revisions, such as field change orders, shall be in writing and approved. The distribution of special inspection reports is clarified. The SIER has the duty to report observed code violations or job site safety violations, but is not liable for other parties. Each laboratory must be accredited; added criteria for on-site laboratory approval.

Chapter 6, Structural Steel. IBC-1704.3 *Steel construction* is included. “Spray-on-fireproofing” has moved to new Chapter 14.

Chapter 7, Cast-in-Place Concrete. IBC-1704.4 *Concrete construction* and IBC-Table 1704.4, as amended by VUSBC(2000), are included. Special inspection of concrete formwork, shoring and reshoring is still (and will remain) within special inspections. Includes IBC-1906.6 for acceptance of concrete. Cold-weather concreting has been revised for clarity on storage locations of field cylinders, and frequency of temperature readings.

Chapter 8, Precast Concrete. Explicitly refers to IBC.

Chapter 9, Wood. Revised to include IBC-1704.6 *Wood construction*, with SIFC-2000 requirements for fabrication and erection documents, inspection of wood fabricators and inspection of seismic connections.

Chapter 10, Masonry. Now includes VOSHA requirements for construction bracing of masonry walls. Special inspections are classified by kind of facility (“essential” vs. “non-essential”) and type of structural design, with required inspections listed in new IBC tables. SIFC-2000 requirements for cold-weather and hot-weather construction have been revised to include IBC Chapter 21 requirements.

Chapter 11, Soils and Foundations. Includes IBC-1704.7, IBC-1704.8 and IBC-1704.9, and specifically refers to sections in IBC Chapter 18.

Chapter 13, Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems. The IBC scope of EIFS systems which require special inspections is different from that in the previous code.

Chapter 14, Sprayed fire-resistant materials, Chapter 15, Smoke control systems, and Chapter 16, Mechanical, electrical and plumbing components. New chapters, including IBC requirements for special inspection of these items.

Chapter 17, Safeguards During Construction. Relocated and retitled, combining two chapters of previous edition. Protection of the public requires safe storage of construction materials, exits from occupied buildings to be kept usable, and includes fencing, barriers and covered walkways. Tower cranes, personnel and material hoists, and construction elevators are included. Fire protection (fire extinguishers, standpipes, sprinklers, fire watch timing) is revised. Includes completion requirements for new buildings and tenant areas.

Appendix A, VUSBC(2000) Excerpts. New appendix: Amendments to IBC Chapter 17.

Appendix B, IBC-2000 Excerpts. New appendix: IBC Chapter 17.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE TO THE SIFC-2000	3
CHAPTER 1 THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SPECIAL INSPECTIONS PROGRAM	13
SIFC-101 INTRODUCTION	13
SIFC-101.1 Special inspections required	13
SIFC-101.2 Content	13
SIFC-101.3 Special inspections and materials testing	13
SIFC-101.4 Purpose	14
SIFC-101.5 Alternative inspection methods or material tests	14
SIFC-101.6 Building code modification requests	15
SIFC-101.7 Program revisions	15
SIFC-102 THE SPECIAL INSPECTIONS ENGINEER OF RECORD	15
SIFC-102.1 Special inspections services	15
SIFC-103 THE STRUCTURAL OR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER OF RECORD REVIEW AND APPROVAL STAMP	15
SIFC-103.1 Stamp on documents	15
SIFC-103.2 Format and language	16
CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS	19
SIFC-201 DEFINITIONS	19
SIFC-202 ABBREVIATIONS AND PROMULGATING AGENCIES	23
CHAPTER 3 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS CLASSIFICATIONS	27
SIFC-301 GENERAL	27
SIFC-301.1 Required by VUSBC and IBC	27
SIFC-301.2 Required by Code of Virginia	28
SIFC-301.3 Seismic and wind	28
SIFC-301.4 Building and foundation elements	28
SIFC-301.5 Existing buildings and structures	28
SIFC-301.6 Elective by Owner	28
SIFC-302 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS REQUIRED	28
SIFC-302.1 Fabricators.	28
SIFC-302.2 Structural steel	29
SIFC-302.3 Cast-in-place concrete	30
SIFC-302.4 Precast concrete	30
SIFC-302.5 Masonry	31
SIFC-302.6 Wood	31
SIFC-302.7 Soils and foundations	31
SIFC-302.8 Earth retention systems	32
SIFC-302.9 Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)	32
SIFC-302.10 Sprayed fire-resistant materials	32
SIFC-302.11 Smoke control	32
SIFC-302.12 Mechanical, electrical and plumbing components	32
SIFC-302.13 Special cases	32
SIFC-303 CODE OF VIRGINIA § 54.1-402 ARCHITECTS AND PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS RELATED LAWS	32
§ 54.1-402 CHART A - GENERAL DESIGN	33

§ 54.1-402 CHART B - ELECTRICAL DESIGN	34
§ 54.1-402 CHART C - PLUMBING & MECHANICAL DESIGN	35
SIFC-304 STATEMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTIONS (SSI)	35
SIFC-304.1 Content	35
SIFC-304.2 Submittal, review and approval	36
SIFC-304.3 SSI Form	36
 CHAPTER 4 FCCSS PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING	 41
SIFC-401 WHEN REQUIRED	41
SIFC-402 PARTICIPANTS	41
SIFC-403 PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS	41
SIFC-403.1 Scheduling of meeting	41
SIFC-403.2 Location of meeting	42
SIFC-403.3 Use of SIFC-2000	42
SIFC-403.4 FCCSS approval of Statement of Special Inspections	42
 CHAPTER 5 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTING SERVICES	 43
SIFC-501 PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS	43
SIFC-501.1 General	43
SIFC-501.2 Review and approval	43
SIFC-501.3 Changes in construction team	43
SIFC-502 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	44
SIFC-502.1 Special inspections	44
SIFC-502.2 Approved documents	44
SIFC-502.3 Deviations	44
SIFC-502.4 Special inspection reports	44
SIFC-502.5 Code violations	45
SIFC-502.6 Job site safety violations	45
SIFC-503 PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS	45
SIFC-503.1 Direct supervision	45
SIFC-503.2 Certification	45
SIFC-503.3 Unusual functions	45
SIFC-504 LABORATORY ACCEPTANCE STANDARDS	46
 CHAPTER 6 STRUCTURAL STEEL	 47
SIFC-601 GENERAL	47
SIFC-601.1 Scope	47
SIFC-601.2 Steel fabrication	47
SIFC-601.3 Steel erection	47
SIFC-602 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	47
SIFC-602.1 Review and approval	47
SIFC-602.2 Preparation of fabrication and erection documents	47
SIFC-602.3 SER review and approval	47
SIFC-603 INSPECTION OF STEEL FABRICATORS	48
SIFC-603.1 Steel fabricators	48
SIFC-603.2 Fabrication procedures	48

SIFC-604 INSPECTION OF STEEL ELEMENTS	48
SIFC-604.1 Material receiving	48
SIFC-604.2 Steel elements	48
SIFC-604.3 Erection	51
SIFC-605 COMPLETION OF STRUCTURAL STEEL CONSTRUCTION	51
 CHAPTER 7 CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE	 53
SIFC-701 GENERAL	53
SIFC-701.1 Scope	53
SIFC-701.2 Construction loads	53
SIFC-701.3 Posting of concrete pour schedule	53
SIFC-702 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	53
SIFC-702.1 Review and approval	53
SIFC-702.2 Seal and signature requirements	53
SIFC-702.3 Formwork design requirements	53
SIFC-702.4 SER review and approval	54
SIFC-703 INSPECTIONS	54
SIFC-703.1 Special inspections	54
SIFC-703.2 Particular Elements	55
SIFC-704 TESTING	56
SIFC-704.1 Testing required	58
SIFC-704.2 Low-strength concrete test results	59
SIFC-705 CONCRETE FORMWORK: STRIPPING AND RESHORING	59
SIFC-705.1 FCCSS approval required	59
SIFC-705.2 Operations	59
SIFC-705.3 Requests for formwork and shoring removal (stripping letter)	59
SIFC-705.4 Low-strength concrete	60
SIFC-705.5 Elongation records	60
SIFC-706 COLD WEATHER CONCRETING	60
SIFC-706.1 When required	60
SIFC-706.2 Temperature readings and records	61
SIFC-706.3 Testing of field-cured cylinders for curing	61
SIFC-707 COMPLETION OF CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION	62
FORMWORK / SHORING STRIPPING / STRESSING FCCSS AUTHORIZATION REQUEST	63
COLD WEATHER CONCRETE SLAB TEMPERATURE LOG	64
 CHAPTER 8 PRECAST CONCRETE	 65
SIFC-801 GENERAL	65
SIFC-801.1 Scope	65
SIFC-801.2 Precast concrete fabrication	65
SIFC-801.3 Precast concrete erection	65
SIFC-802 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	65
SIFC-802.1 Review and approval	65
SIFC-802.2 Preparation of fabrication and erection documents	65
SIFC-802.3 AR and SER review and approval	65
SIFC-803 INSPECTION OF PRECAST CONCRETE FABRICATORS	65

SIFC-804 INSPECTION OF PRECAST CONCRETE ELEMENTS	66
SIFC-804.1 Site-cast precast concrete	66
SIFC-804.2 Erection	66
SIFC-805 COMPLETION OF PRECAST CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION	66
 CHAPTER 9 WOOD	 67
SIFC-901 GENERAL	67
SIFC-901.1 Scope	67
SIFC-901.2 Wood erection	67
SIFC-902 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	67
SIFC-902.1 Preparation of fabrication and erection documents	67
SIFC-902.2 Review and approval	67
SIFC-903 INSPECTION OF WOOD FABRICATORS	68
SIFC-903.1 Wood fabricators	68
SIFC-904 INSPECTION OF WOOD ELEMENTS	68
SIFC-904.1 Erection	68
SIFC-904.2 Connections	68
SIFC-905 COMPLETION OF WOOD CONSTRUCTION	68
 CHAPTER 10 MASONRY	 69
SIFC-1001 GENERAL	69
SIFC-1001.1 Scope	69
SIFC-1001.2 Loads	69
SIFC-1001.3 Protection during construction	69
SIFC-1002 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	69
SIFC-1003 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	70
SIFC-1004 COLD-WEATHER AND HOT-WEATHER CONSTRUCTION	72
SIFC-1004.1 Cold weather	72
SIFC-1004.2 Hot weather	73
SIFC-1004.3 Temperature records	74
SIFC-1005 COMPLETION OF MASONRY CONSTRUCTION	74
 CHAPTER 11 SOILS AND FOUNDATIONS	 75
SIFC-1101 GENERAL	75
SIFC-1101.1 Scope	75
SIFC-1101.2 Soils report	75
SIFC-1102 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	75
SIFC-1102.1 Review and approval	75
SIFC-1102.2 Preparation of fabrication and erection documents	75
SIFC-1103 SOILS-RELATED DEVIATIONS AND REVISIONS	75
SIFC-1103.1 Review and approval	75
SIFC-1103.2 Preparation of revisions	75
SIFC-1104 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	76

SIFC-1104.1 Soils	76
SIFC-1104.2 Deep foundations	76
SIFC-1104.3 Shallow footings and foundations	77
SIFC-1104.4 Revisions and deviations	77
SIFC-1105 COMPLETION OF SOILS AND FOUNDATIONS CONSTRUCTION	77
SIFC-1105.1 Soils	77
SIFC-1105.2 Deep foundations	77
SIFC-1105.3 Shallow footings and foundations	77
CHAPTER 12 EARTH RETENTION SYSTEMS	79
SIFC-1201 GENERAL	79
SIFC-1202 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS	79
SIFC-1202.1 Review and approval	79
SIFC-1202.2 Preparation of construction documents	79
SIFC-1203 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	79
SIFC-1203.1 Review and approval	79
SIFC-1203.2 Preparation of fabrication and erection documents	79
SIFC-1204 INSPECTIONS	80
SIFC-1204.1 Special inspections required	80
SIFC-1204.2 Inspection reports	80
SIFC-1204.3 Deviations	80
SIFC-1205 COMPLETION OF EARTH RETENTION SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION	80
CHAPTER 13 EXTERIOR INSULATION AND FINISH SYSTEMS	81
SIFC-1301 GENERAL	81
SIFC-1301.1 Scope	81
SIFC-1302 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS	81
SIFC-1302.1 Review and approval	81
SIFC-1302.2 Preparation of construction documents	81
SIFC-1303 FABRICATION AND ERECTION DOCUMENTS	82
SIFC-1303.1 Review and approval	82
SIFC-1303.2 Preparation of fabrication and erection documents	82
SIFC-1304 INSPECTION OF EIFS FABRICATORS	82
SIFC-1305 INSPECTION OF EIFS ELEMENTS	82
SIFC-1306 COMPLETION OF EIFS CONSTRUCTION	82
CHAPTER 14 SPRAYED FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS	83
SIFC-1401 GENERAL	83
SIFC-1401.1 Scope	83
SIFC-1402 DESIGN DOCUMENTS	83
SIFC-1402.1 Construction documents	83
SIFC-1402.2 Fabrication and erection documents	83
SIFC-1402.3 Review and approval	83

SIFC-1403 INSPECTION AND TESTING	83
SIFC-1403.1 Inspections and tests	83
SIFC-1404 COMPLETION OF SPRAYED FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS	85
 CHAPTER 15 SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS	 87
SIFC-1501 GENERAL	87
SIFC-1501.1 Scope	87
SIFC-1501.2 Special inspectors	87
SIFC-1501.3 Inspections	87
SIFC-1501.4 Tests	87
SIFC-1502 COMPLETION OF SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS	88
 CHAPTER 16 MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING COMPONENTS	 89
SIFC-1601 GENERAL	89
SIFC-1602 INSPECTIONS AND TESTS	89
SIFC-1603 COMPLETION OF MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL AND PLUMBING COMPONENTS	90
 CHAPTER 17 SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION	 91
SIFC-1701 PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC	91
SIFC-1701.1 Materials and equipment	91
SIFC-1701.2 Occupied buildings	91
SIFC-1701.3 Fencing, barriers and covered walkways	91
SIFC-1702 ON-SITE CONCRETE BATCH PLANTS	94
SIFC-1702.1 Scope	94
SIFC-1703 VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION	94
SIFC-1703.1 General	94
SIFC-1703.2 Masonry walls	94
SIFC-1704 TOWER CRANES, PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL HOISTS, CONSTRUCTION ELEVATORS	94
SIFC-1704.1 General	94
SIFC-1704.2 Documents	94
SIFC-1704.3 Inspections	95
SIFC-1704.4 Safety rules and regulations	96
SIFC-1705 FIRE PROTECTION	96
SIFC-1705.1 Fire extinguishers	96
SIFC-1705.2 Standpipes	96
SIFC-1705.3 Fire suppression system	97
SIFC-1706 FIRE PROTECTION AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTIALLY OCCUPIED BUILDINGS	97
SIFC-1706.1 General	97
SIFC-1706.2 Material storage	97
SIFC-1706.3 Fire suppression system requirements	98
SIFC-1706.4 Special cases	98
SIFC-1707 OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW BUILDINGS AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS	98

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIFC-1707.1 Non-Residential Use Permit (Non-RUP)	99
SIFC-1707.2 Non-RUP procedural requirements	99
APPENDIX A VUSBC(2000) EXCERPTS	103
APPENDIX B IBC-2000 EXCERPTS	105
APPENDIX C EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD	131